**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019**

**of the**

**Friends of the Dorothy Neal White Collection**

**Programme rooms, Ground Floor, National Library of New Zealand, Wellington**

**6:00pm, Tuesday 11 June 2019**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

The Annual General Meeting 2018 was held on 19 June 2018 at the National Library and was attended by 13 members.

**COMMITTEE**

All committee members were re-elected unopposed. Corrina Gordon has retained the role of President. Jeff Hunt (Treasurer) and Joan McCracken (*Newsletter* editor) continue in these positions. Other members who continued their roles on the committee were Barbara Robertson, Chantalle Smith, Kathryn Walls, Lynne Jackett and Margaret Hurst. Mary Skarott, in her role as the Research Librarian Children’s Literature, also continued to be part of the committee.

The role of Secretary is shared around the committee members; but if anyone is keen it would be nice to have a nomination for this role.

The Committee of the Friends of the Dorothy Neal White Collection has met regularly throughout the year and arranged four general meetings for members.

**MEETINGS**

Meetings during the year were all held at the National Library. Our thanks go to the National Library for allowing us to hold our events here free of charge, and particularly to Public Programmes staff Jasmine Cameron, Rejeli Loon and Rachel Helu, for setting up the rooms for us and to Security for the part they play.

* 19 June AGM 2018 – Mary Skarott showed us new acquisitions for DNW collection
* 14 July 2018 – Australasian Children's Literature Association for Research (ACLAR) event, hosting attendees from the conference
* 18 September 2018 – Philippa Werry – “Writing from war to peace” – children’s literature with connections to Antarctica
* 21 November – Kay Hancock “Of bush and birds: New Zealand as 'fairyland'” – about NZ children’s books from the 1940s & 1950s
* 20 March 2019 – Cheryl Paget “Anne of Green Gables – a literal and literary journey” – a visit to Prince Edward Island and sites relating to L M Montgomery

All our speakers gave fascinating insights into their areas of research. We thank them for giving their time to share their passion for children’s literature with the Friends.

**PATRON**

Since the 2018 AGM we offered the position of patron to Fleur Beale and were delighted when she accepted. Since then she has attended several of our events. It is a great pleasure to have her as our patron.

**RESEARCH SCHOLAR**

We are pleased to have Sarah Gholami, PhD candidate at Victoria University as our Research scholar for 2018/2019.

**PUBLICATIONS**

*Notes-Books-Authors* has not yet been published this year, but there are titles planned for the near future. Mary Skarott has been working on School prizes during WWI; Kay Hancock’s write-up for her research will form the basis of another, and we have Trevor’s history of the FDNW to look forward to.

There have been 12 titles published since May 1985 and all, except number 7, have been digitised and are available on Friends website. Copies of some issues are also still available for purchase from the Society. Do get in touch if you are interested in filling gaps in your collection. We do have some potential new titles for the series so if there are any willing volunteers who would like to take up a project to produce another *Notes-Books-Authors* please do get in touch with the committee. To get an idea of what the content of these is please see our website for archived editions.

**FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE**

Our **Facebook** page now has regular postings. Members who are online are encouraged to post items and share with their friends in order to increase the number from 69 ‘likes’. This is a space to share news, views, reviews and relevant links and posts from other sites.

Our **website** continues to be maintained by webmaster Jeff Hunt, with assistance from Joan McCracken. We use the site to publicise events, make announcements, and to make newsletters, *Notes-Books-Authors*, minutes, and other material available not only to members of the Friends but also to the wider world of researchers and browsers. Jeff has set up a feed so that Facebook updates also show on the website. There is still work to be done to update pages and make the site navigation more intuitive. The website continues to be hosted by charity.net at Waikato University for free so we are fortunate that there is no cost to the society to have a web presence. As always, we welcome suggestions for content for the website.

**NEWSLETTER**

We were unable to publish a newsletter at the end of last year but have a special edition for this AGM from Rowan Gibbs, who has written about Hannah Storer’s life and times. We also have our usual newsletter ready for you to collect. The newsletter is published to keep members up-to-date with activities and events associated with members and with the National Library’s collections, and includes other news connected with children’s literature. As always this was a very collaborative effort. Committee members contribute writing, editing, proof-reading and envelope-stuffing skills, as well as there being assistance from the wider Friends group.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The treasurer continues to encourage members to renew their subscriptions - or to let us know if they no longer want to belong to the Society. We ended the 2018-2019 financial year with 32 financial members of the Friends, with 20 members already paid up for this coming year. We encourage current members to bring a friend or friends to events, as some people may not be aware of the society and our activities. While we still circulate the newsletter and notices to some libraries and other organisations that support children's literature, we continue to refine our membership and mailing lists.

**CONCLUSION**

Thank you to all members of the Society for your continuing interest in the children’s literature collections of the National Library. We really enjoy catching up with those of you who are able to attend the meetings that are organised throughout the year. Once again, grateful thanks are also due to all the Committee members for their continuing energy and commitment, their catering skills, and their ongoing support for the Research Librarian and the Collection.

As always, we welcome suggestions of topics for events, displays, publications, or research using the DNW Collection and the Library’s other children’s literature collections.

**Corrina Gordon**

**President**

10 June 2019